

Q1 *cont*

11. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is homogeneous on the nanometre scale.

12. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the amount of anionic and cationic impurities is less than 0.1% by weight.

13. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the silica-alumina contains 0.5% to 30% by weight of silica with respect to the anhydrous product.

14. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the group VIII metal content is in the range 0.1% to 50% by weight.

15. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the group VIII metal is cobalt.

16. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the catalyst contains at least one additional element selected from the group formed by: ruthenium, molybdenum, tantalum, platinum and palladium.

17. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the catalyst further contains 0.1% to 5% by weight of at least one oxide M_2O_3 of at least one metal M selected from the group formed by lanthanum, praseodymium and neodymium.

18. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the catalyst is used in suspension in a liquid phase, in a three-phase reactor.

Q2

20. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the catalyst is used in a fixed bed in the form of particles with an equivalent diameter in the range 2 to 10 mm.